



Tapu!tea

...ina ia manino le folauga.

Wednesday
August 2,
2006

OFFICIAL AMERICAN SAMOA GOVERNMENT WEEKLY NEWSLETTER Vol. I, No. 19

Governor Togiola says new tax credit bill 30A is 'encouraging and moving forward'

(UTULEI) - Governor Togiola Tulafono called the passage of a new tax bill (tax credit 30A) last Friday by the U.S. House of Representatives, which includes a two year extension of possession tax credits for the local canneries, "encouraging and moving forward."

The following is the official statement from Governor Togiola:

"I am very glad that this is moving forward. I am grateful for the efforts of Congressman Faleomavaega to keep this matter on the Congressional agenda and the favorable vote from the House of Representatives is encouraging.

I pray that the Senate will appreciate the importance of this measure to us, and will also approve it. We would like very much to push for a more permanent solution for our Territory, but we also have to be mindful of the challenges that it brings and we are committed to working with Congress and the President's administration to find the appropriate solutions for us, and we must learn to be patient with these issues.

It is a slight set back for us not to have permanent benefits we can offer to new investments but I remain optimistic and hopeful that we will continue to receive assistance from Congress in our struggle to gain long term tax credit benefits we can utilize in our economic development efforts.

I want to commend the efforts of our Delegate Faleomavaega, and thank Chairman Thomas and members of Congress who are helping us with

Governor Togiola corrects inaccurate comments in Pacific Business News from Senate President Lolo

(UTULEI) - Governor Togiola Tulafono responded to comments made earlier this month by Senate President Lolo M. Moliga that was posted July 28th online via Pacific Business News.

The following is the official statement from Governor Togiola:

"I was very concerned with errors contained in your internet article.

Please note that a reading of this material (Executive Order) should provide a clear understanding that all letters of Hawaiian Airlines were given full responses, and meetings were welcomed with Hawaiian Airlines if they were to propose remedial conduct. Hopefully your internet reporting will be corrected accordingly. The quote you have taken from the President of the Senate in American Samoa was clearly wrong. I am always prepared to discuss these issues with Hawaiian Airlines, once they notify me that they are prepared to roll back fares to reasonable levels, and correct the number of things we had been concerned with regarding their operation. I am not resistant to meeting them at all. I want it to be a meeting that will produce results for my people, and not just for the sake of explaining to me why they feel they are justified in doing what they are doing."

HISTORICAL NOTES

By: Stan Sorensen, Historian , Office of the Governor

On July 26, 1890, Robert Louis Stevenson and his party arrived in New Caledonia.

On July 26, 1893, Mata'afa Iosefo, his daughter and 11 others were exiled by the Germans to Jaluit in the Marshall Islands.

On July 26, 2001, the American Samoa Government, DELTA Consortium and PEACESAT dedicated the 7.2 Meter Hubsite Satellite Antenna at Tafuna, American Samoa. In his dedication speech, Lieutenant Governor Togiola T.A. Tulafono praised the hard work of DELTA and PEACESAT personnel in bring the project to completion.

On July 26, 2001, Governor H(yrum) Rex Lee, American Samoa's seventh appointed civil governor, passed away in La Jolla, California. He was 91 years old. Lee spent over four decades in U.S. government service, among which was his appointment as Governor of American Samoa from 1961 to 1967. Lee was a native of Rigby, Idaho, and a graduate in agricultural economics from the University of Idaho. In 1936, he entered government service as an economist with the Department of Agriculture. During World War II, he served with the War Relocation Authority and was assigned to relocate Japanese-Americans. Later Lee worked with the Bureau of Indian Affairs before being appointed Governor of American Samoa. On May 24, 1961, President John F. Kennedy appointed Lee as American Samoa's seventh appointed civil governor (until July 31, 1967), succeeding Governor Peter Tali Coleman, who was the Territory's only appointed Samoan governor. Lee's first term was the longest of any of American Samoa's governors (civil or naval), and he served an additional half-year term (May 28, 1977-January 3, 1978), thus becoming the longest-serving appointed civil governor, and the only appointed civil governor to serve two non-consecutive terms. His administration saw the establishment of a new airport, roads, schools, a luxury hotel in to cultivate the tourist industry, two fish canneries, new harbor facilities, an impressive educational television system, and numerous other innovations. In 1966, when American Samoa had the opportunity of reunifying with Western Samoa, its citizens chose to remain a territory of the United States. After his six-year tenure in American Samoa, Lee received the Award for Distinguished Federal Civil Service and was appointed to the Federal Communications Commission where he worked until his retirement in 1973. He moved to California and became a founding chairman of the Public Service Satellite Consortium and helped establish educational television in several South American countries.

On July 28, 1908, in his Annual Report to Secretary of the Navy Truman H. Newberry, Captain John F. Parker, Governor of American Samoa, informed his superior that 128 major and 37 minor operations were performed at the hospital's new operating room.

On July 28, 1914, American Samoa's Governor, Commander Clark Daniel Stearns issued "The Education Regulation of 1914," which established a Department of Education and outlined its duties. The act "defined three classes of public schools, the duties of the taxpayers of a village to provide suitable buildings for the pupils and for the teachers; it provided for tracts of land for playgrounds and other tracts for school plantations. Every public school was to be open for instruction for at least four hours a day, Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and holidays excepted. The age for commencing school was five years."

On July 29, 1853, Charles Brainard Taylor Moore, American Samoa's fifth naval governor (January 30, 1905-May 21, 1908) was born in Paris, Illinois.

On July 29, 1901, Harry Jay Moors wrote a letter to Secretary of the Navy John Davis Long, accusing Commander Benjamin Franklin Tilley, Commandant, U.S. Naval Station Tutuila of "scandalous conduct, both in Samoa and in Auckland," and stating that Edwin William Gurr, a British subject, should not be employed as an American judge.

On July 29, 1942, the Matson luxury liner SS *Lurline*, carrying units of the 22nd Marine Regiment bound for Samoa, was attacked by a Japanese submarine 24 miles northeast of Tutuila. Marine Private Edwin C. Bearss (now retired Chief Historian of the National Park service and a noted authority on the American Civil War) recorded the incident for posterity, writing that "Fortunately, the submarine commander had set his 'Long Lances' [torpedoes] to run too deep, and one passed under the *Lurline's* bow, and the other hard astern."

On July 29, 1942, SS *Lurline* dropped anchor in Pago Pago Harbor at 8:06 a.m. Private First Class Will Pepper of the 22nd Marines wrote this entry in his journal: "This island is very beautiful. The vegetation-covered mountains extend almost to the waters. It is different from the kind of vegetation back home [in central Mississippi]. There are a lot of palm trees, and dense vines covering the mountains." After unloading "hundreds of bags of mail," *Lurline* weighed anchor at 11:30 a.m., en route to Apia, arriving there at 4:30 p.m.

On July 29, 2002, Mr. David B. Cohen arrived in American Samoa on his first inspection trip as Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Insular Affairs.

On July 30, 1940, Lieutenant Commander Jesse Rink Wallace relieved Captain Edward William Hanson and began his ten-day term as American Samoa's 27th naval governor (acting: until August 8, 1940).

ASPA Board Unanimous not to renew Fonoti Perelini's Contract

(ASPA PRESS RELEASE) Fepulea'i Afa Ripley Jr., Chairman of the Board of Directors of the American Samoa Power Authority, said in response to questions by the media today that the "The Board decided not to renew Fonoti Perelini's employment contract with ASPA. This essentially meant that his services with ASPA would terminate upon proper notice in accordance with his contract.. Perelini's contract with ASPA was over and December 2005 and served as an "at will" employee in accordance with his employment contract. Fepulea'i said that .The ASPA Board, after finalizing its appointment of Andra Samoa as CEO, informed Fonoti Perelini that the ASPA Board wanted him to continue to work at ASPA. Fonoti had earlier indicated that if he was not selected as CEO that he would leave ASPA and pursue other interests."

On July 19, 2006, Fonoti Perelini sent all Board members the following email:

Dear Chairman Fepulea'i and Members of the ASPA Board of Directors; This is in response to the ASPA Board's request (per Board meeting on July 12, 2006; and Dr. Norman Okamura's email) that I remain with ASPA. As you are aware of my extreme disappointment with the outcome of the selection process and decision on the appointment of the CEO, I am compelled to seek legal advice on the possible remedies. In exercise of my right of appeal, please expect a letter from my attorney. Despite this, I am as concerned as the Board is with maintaining continuity in ASPA management and operation plus there is so much work to be done. In that respect I will agree to continue employment in my current position of Chief Operations Officer for the time being under the following conditions:

- 1. That the Board respect my right to seek legal redress of my grievances under due process if that becomes necessary.*
- 2. Given the new Board approved ASPA organization and new responsibilities and requirements of the COO position, I would like to request a salary of about \$100,000 plus benefits of housing, vehicle, medical, insurance, home leave, etc.*

I will be available at your convenience to discuss this further.

Sincerely, Fonoti P. Perelini"

Fepulea'i said, "Given Fonoti's terms and conditions to continue employment with ASPA, his salary and benefit demands, attorney's allegations and other issues that have troubled individual Board members, the Board unanimously decided that Fonoti's continued employment with ASPA would not be in the best interests of ASPA. Therefore, it was decided in the not to renew his contract. Consequently, a letter advising off and giving a two week notice of termination was issued on July 24, 2006 in accordance with the .at will. provisions of his contract." Fepulea'i Afa Ripley said that a replacement for Perelini would be selected in due course and that the Board is considering a temporary appointment of a qualified Management employee from within ASPA.

In reply refer to: American Samoa Power Authority

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USS *Abarenda* (AC-13): *American Samoa's First Naval Station Ship*

Transcribed and edited by Stan Sorensen

Collier No. 13: displacement: 6,680 tons; length: 325'6"; beam: 42'; draft: 22'10"; speed: 9 knots; complement: 69; armament: four 3-pounder guns.

The first *Abarenda* (Collier No. 13), a merchant ship built in 1892 at Newcastle, England, by the Edwards Shipbuilding Co. was acquired by the Navy on May 5, 1898 from J. Graham; fitted out as a collier, and commissioned at the New York Navy Yard on May 20, 1898, Lieutenant Commander Marcus B. Buford in command.

Abarenda departed New York on May 28 and stopped at Lamberts Point, Virginia, to load coal and ammunition before sailing for Cuba on the 30th. Between June 8 and 26, 1898, *Abarenda* replenished the bunkers and magazines of American warships at Santiago and Guantanamo Bay, and also provided gunfire support as the occasion demanded (her port bow gun shelled Spanish positions at the mouth of the Guantanamo River on June 12, 1898). That same day Lt. Comdr. Buford presented the Marine garrison ashore at Camp McCalla with a flag pole and, after being given an ensign by Capt. Bowman McCalla, of the cruiser *Marblehead*, a party of two officers and four men, under Lt. Stephen Jenkins, from *Abarenda*, erected the pole and raised the colors over the Marine camp. "When the flag was hoisted by our men," writes Buford, "the Squadron lying off the camp cheered it . . . the marines . . . were given new life and some took up the cheering."

Abarenda returned to Lamberts Point on July 2 and remained in the Hampton Roads, Virginia area through the end of the war with Spain in August. On September 18, she sailed for South American waters, and reached Bahia, Brazil, on October 19. En route home, the ship visited Barbados, and St. Thomas, Danish West Indies, before ultimately reaching Hampton Roads on December 8, 1898. Coaling duties with the North Atlantic Squadron occupied the ship through the early months of 1899.

After completing the loading, on April 21, 1899, of a cargo of construction materials (steel, corrugated iron, and glass) which belonged to a San Francisco contractor given the contract to build a wharf and a coal shed at Pago Pago, Tutuila, American Samoa, and steel rods and angle irons earmarked for strengthening the foundations of the coal shed at Pago Pago, *Abarenda* shifted to Coal Pier No. 2 at Hampton Roads the following day, and coaled until the 24th. She departed Hampton Roads on 30 April, bound for the Pacific under the command of Commander Benjamin Franklin Tilley, USN. En route, the ship stopped briefly at Montevideo, Uruguay, and Punta Arenas, Chile; rounded Cape Horn in rough weather (rolling as much as 30 degrees during the passage), and visited Valparaiso, Chile, Bounty Bay, Pitcairn Island, and Tahiti, before sighting Tutuila on August 9. She anchored in Apia Harbor the following morning, and then shifted to Pago Pago on the morning of the 13th, soon to commence unloading the cargo brought from Norfolk.

Assigned duty as station ship at Samoa, *Abarenda* spent the next two and a half years largely ferrying people and cargo between Apia and Pago Pago, often carrying as many as 50 or more Samoan passengers on each trip. Twice during this period, during the winter of 1899-1900 and the winter of 1900-1901, the ship made a voyage from Samoan waters to New Zealand, where she was dry-docked in the Calliope Dock at Auckland for hull work. Relieved of duty as station ship by USS *Wheeling* (Gunboat No. 14) on May 24, 1902, *Abarenda* sailed for the United States that same day, and, after touching at Lundy Point, Chile; Montevideo; St. Thomas and San Juan, Puerto Rico, en route, reached the Virginia capes on August 9, 1902. Shifting to the Norfolk Navy Yard at mid-day on the 10th, she underwent preparations for inactivation, and was decommissioned on September 4, 1902.

Following her recommissioning on November 3, 1903, Lt. Comdr. J. L. Purcell in command, *Abarenda* sailed to Guantanamo Bay and Pensacola, Florida, to support the Atlantic Fleet.

She was next ordered to carry coal and ammunition to the European Squadron and departed Norfolk on April 23, 1904. She filled the bunkers of *Maine* (Battleship No. 10) *Alabama* (Battleship No. 8), *Kearsarge* (Battleship No. 5), and *Iowa* (Battleship No. 4) from June 3 to 20, and arrived at Piraeus, Greece, on June 30. After a two-day stop at Gibraltar in mid-July, the collier headed home on August 3 and arrived back at Norfolk where she immediately began loading coal and ammunition to supply the European Squadron. The collier again sailed for the Mediterranean on 14 October 14, arrived at Gibraltar on November 2, and soon moved on to Genoa, Italy, to coal more ships. After a brief stop at Gibraltar, she got underway for the United States on November 28.

Abarenda reached Norfolk on January 14, 1905. Late in the month, the ship made another coaling trip to Puerto Rico before again going out of commission at Norfolk on February 21, 1905. At that time, the ship's Navy crew was removed, and, that afternoon, the vessel was placed in service with a merchant crew, Master J. W. Holmes in command. For the next three and one-half years, she provided collier service for the Navy along the Atlantic coast until inactivated at Norfolk on 6 October 1909.

Placed back in service as a US Naval Auxiliary on May 19, 1910, Whitney L. Eisler, Master, *Abarenda* began preparing for service in the Far East. Departing Staten Island on July 14, 1910, she proceeded via the Suez Canal to the Philippine Islands arriving at Cavite, Philippine Islands, on September 20 to begin serving the warships of the Asiatic Fleet.

After the United States entered World War I, *Abarenda* was placed back in commission on May 27, 1917, Lt. Comdr. Harry M. Bostwick, USNRF, in command when her officers and crew were sworn into the Naval Auxiliary Reserve in response to an order issued by the Navy Department on May 7, 1917 directing that naval auxiliaries, which had previously been manned by civilian officers and crews, be brought fully into the Navy and manned by Navy personnel.

With the exception of a short time in 1919 when she served as a station ship at Samoa, the collier-designated AC-13 on July 17, 1920 remained on duty with the Asiatic Fleet for the remainder of her career. It was in the twilight of her naval career that the ship took part in humanitarian relief in the wake of the devastating earthquake that occurred in Japan in September 1923.

The first word received in the Asiatic Fleet was at 1100 on September 2, through a telegram to a Japanese newspaper in Dairen, Manchuria, where a detachment of the Fleet had been sent for liberty purposes. Admiral Edwin A. Anderson, the Commander in Chief, Asiatic Fleet, immediately set the wheels in motion to offer relief to the stricken land. As part of the movement to gather supplies, *Abarenda* received orders on September 5 to load non-perishable stores and medical supplies at Hankow, China, and proceed immediately to Japanese waters. Ultimately reaching Yokohama on September 18, the ship remained there for several days unloading, and was retained there temporarily to assist the American Embassy and the Red Cross in the distribution of relief supplies.

A short time later, on January 18, 1924, *Abarenda's* duties were changed when she became the receiving ship at Cavite, Philippine Islands, and was assigned to the 16th Naval District; still later that year, she was reclassified as a miscellaneous auxiliary, and was redesignated AG-14 on July 1, 1924. Reassigned to the Asiatic Fleet proper, in November 1924, the ship spent the remainder of her career engaged in carrying supplies, mail, and men from Cavite to the ships operating along the coasts of China and Japan. Decommissioned on January 21, 1926, *Abarenda* was simultaneously struck from the Navy list. She was sold on February 28, 1926 at Cavite to S. R. Paterno.

Share important activities

with our ASG workforce as well as the citizens of American Samoa.

Email your articles, announcements, pictures or other information to:

tapuitea@amsamoa.gov.as

Deadline for submissions is Thursday @ noon.

Contact:

Harry Stevens @733-1694

or

Vince Iuli @ 733-1041

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There is nothing so fatal to character as half-finished

Governor Togiola discusses Hawaiian Air, Budget hearing, Ethics training and Two Samoa talks at monthly Cabinet meeting

(UTULEI) – Governor Togiola Tulafono met with his Cabinet on Wednesday, August 2nd, at the monthly meeting and briefed ASG directors on Hawaiian Air, Budget hearing, Ethics training, Two Samoa talks and other matters of importance.

❖ HAWAIIAN AIR

Governor Togiola told the directors the Hawaiian Air Executive Order that was issued last week stemmed from Hawaiian Air refusing to put into writing any recognition at all about the issues he raised in his correspondence.

“This is extremely disheartening to our people,” said Governor Togiola. “I will continue to pursue resolution even if Hawaiian Air refuses to acknowledge any of our issues. Our people deserve relief.”

❖ BUDGET HEARINGS

Governor Togiola said the American Samoa budget will be submitted to the Fono shortly and reminded his Cabinet that every director owes a duty to abide by the ceilings designated by the Budget Director in consultation with the Governor

“Every agency needs more money. The key is to fit those needs within projected revenues. This is the task of the Executive and these measures must be taken,” said Governor Togiola.

The Governor said meetings regarding special circumstances have been held and the resultant decisions are deemed final for those agencies.

“I ask all of you directors for your cooperation,” said Governor Togiola. “Also, your understanding is greatly appreciated as we move forward with presentation of the budget to the Legislature.”

❖ ETHICS TRAINING

Governor Togiola reported that the two-day Ethics Training for all government department and agency heads will be conducted on island by the Soderquist Center for Leadership and Ethics from John Brown University - Siloam Springs, Arkansas. The ethics training will be held August 15 – 17.

“Ethical conduct in all aspects of our service to the people is the priority of this Administration,” said Governor Togiola. “All directors are expected to attend because this training is an essential element in creating high-performance and good governance.”

❖ TWO SAMOAS MEETING

Governor Togiola informed the Cabinet that the Territory will host the Two Samoa Talks this year and will be held on Friday, August 18 at the Convention Center in Utulei. The last meeting of the Two Samoas was held in Apia last year.

❖ ASG VEHICLES

Governor Togiola issued a reminder to the enforcing agencies and to all cabinet members on the use of government vehicles and abuses of the after-hours permits will not be tolerated.

The Governor reiterated that impound charges for vehicles will be borne by the respective agencies, with no exceptions. He said signing authority for the permits are Directors and Deputy Directors only. Division Heads and positions below the deputy director will not be accepted without prior authorization by General Memo.

❖ CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

Governor Togiola announced that a Congressional Delegation will be arriving on Wednesday, August 16.

